

HUH?

ME?!

A
GIFT?

WHO ARE
PRETTIER, MORE
GOOD-NATURED,
AND MORE
POPULAR WITH
THE UPPER-
CLASSMEN
THAN ME!

Like
those
in Sukun-
cho!

BUT
THERE
ARE SO
MANY
OTHER
GIRLS

B-BUT
KINOSHITA-
SENPAI—

EASY,
RIGHT?

YES,
FOR THE
TENTH-
GRADERS.

They
aren't a
"high
school
type"
but
you
love
you

DON'T
WORRY,

YOU'RE
DOING JUST
FINE WHEN
IT COMES
TO PER-
SONALITY,
AT LEAST.

I'm a
Goth
here

THIS IS WHAT THE SELECTION COMMITTEE DECIDED. WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A COMPLAINT?

...NO.

I don't
want to
agree to
do it

DON'T YOU THINK SHE'S A RECKLESS CHOICE?

THE TWO OF YOU WILL REPORT TO HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING B.

Huh?

YOU'LL BE PAIRED WITH MISHIMA-SAN.

smile~

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU TO PERSUADE HER, CHIKUSA-CHAN!

IT'S ONE OF THE ESSENTIAL TRADITIONS OF SHOKKA WOMEN'S INSTITUTE.

THE HIGH SCHOOLERS SERVE AS ROLE MODELS FOR THE JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS.

THEY'RE ALSO OUR CLOSEST BRIDES.





AND AFTER
FINALS ARE
OVER, AS AN
EXPRESSION
OF OUR
GRATITUDE,

IN THE
FORMS
THEY
TUTOR
US,
AFTER
ALL.

THEY'RE
REALLY
MEANT TO
HAVE AROUND
WHEN BEARS
ARE COMING
UP, ESPE-
CIALLY FOR
THOSE OF US
WHO LIVE

The Secret Dormitory GIFT

WE GIVE
THEM
"GIFTS," OR,
IN OTHER
WORDS...

SCAPEGOATS.

SACRIFICES.
VICTIMS.









DO WE
REALLY
HAVE TO
WEAR
THESE?

*Regulars in body. Non-regulars wear
shorts, long pants, leotards or slacks

THESE
ARE
FINE.

WOULD
YOU HAVE
PREFERRED
REGULARS?

WELL,
WE'RE
SUPPOSED
TO BE
PRESENTS

And it's only
for the first
day

EVERY-
ONE'S SO
FULL OF
IT.

Go to
Sund
BUT!



WE'LL BE
SERVING
YOU WITH
ALL OUR
HEARTS!

I'M TAKEI
CHIGUSA.
THIS IS
MISHIMA
KISA.
WE'RE
BOTH IN
EIGHTH
GRADE.

HELLO,
WE'RE
YOUR
GITS.

OH.

WE GOT
YOU,
CHIGUSA-
CHAN?





and all sorts of other stuff

DOING PEOPLE'S SHOPPING, AIRING OUT BEDDING...

DELIVERING MAIL AND PACKAGES.

I'VE BEEN RUNNING ALL OVER THE PLACE.

BUT IT MEANS THAT I'M STUCK DOING EVERYTHING ON MY OWN.

"That's their real mystery."

ANYWAY, I'M AMAZED MISHIMA-SAN IS GOING ALONG WITH IT.

YEAH, SHE'S A STEADFAST-RLS.

TAKASAGO-SENPAI DID SAY SHE WANTED TO USE HER AS A MODEL, BUT...

A GI-RAPPED

MEANWHILE, MISHIMA GETS TO SIT AROUND HOLDING A SHRAFFE THE WHOLE TIME.

Yeah, tell her me off too

SHE'S NOT ANTI-SOCIAL.

I'm enjoying her real

IT TAKES A WHILE FOR THINGS TO PENETRATE HER BRAIN.

HUNT?







IT'D RATHER
PUT UP WITH
HIRANO'S
YELLING ANY
DAY.

It's the
class
president

YEAH,
EXACTLY!

HER LITTLE
NICE-GIRL ACT
REALLY GETS
UP MY NOSE.
AND SHE'S
ALWAYS
BUTTING IN.

YEAH, I
DON'T
LIKE HER
MUCH
EITHER.

LIKE, SHE
PITES US
BECAUSE OF
HER OWN
SENSE OF
SUPERIORITY?

YOU'RE
KIDDING!

WHOA,
REALLY?
ME
EITHER!

OH, GROW
UP, YOU
SPOILED
BRATS!

r
o
a
a
a
a
r

EVERYTHING
COMES SO
EASILY TO
TAKE!

SHE
COULDN'T
POSSIBLY
UNDERSTAND
HOW WE
FEEL!









THEY'RE NOT
SOMETHING
OTHER PEOPLE
SHOULD GET
JEALOUS
OVER.

SO

GOOD
GRADES AND
ALL THAT ARE
THE RESULT
OF THE WORK
YOU PUT INTO
THEM.

I DON'T
THINK YOU
SHOULD
WORRY
ABOUT IT
TOO MUCH.

DON'T
BLOW
YOUR
NOSE
ON MY
BLOUSE!

HEY!

honk

HEHE.



YOU'RE ONE OF THE TOP CANDIDATES FOR THE NEXT JUNIOR HIGH DORM HEAD.

BUT I HEARD

IT MUST HAVE BEEN ROUGH FOR YOU TO BE A GIFT, WITH ALL OF YOUR OTHER DUTIES.

HUH??

Being a gift is part of your training for this.

WELL, I JUST END UP DOING ODD JOBS, REALLY. MY TITLE DOESN'T MEAN MUCH.

I just do a lot of this and that.

DO YOU HATE BUSY-BODIES, CHOUASA-CHAN?

THEN YOU'LL BE JUST PERFECT FOR THE JOB.

PEOPLE ALREADY THINK I'M A BUSYBODY AND A NUISANCE.

BUT I'M NOT QUALIFIED.

YOU'RE SO CHEERFUL AND FULL OF ENERGY THAT JUST WATCHING YOU MAKES PEOPLE FEEL GOOD.

YOU'RE VERY HONEST, CHOUASA-CHAN.

YES.

AND OTHER PEOPLE CAN CHEER ME UP WHEN I'M FEELING DOWN.

...I
LIKE IT WHEN PEOPLE LOOK AFTER ME.









Lalilicious~may its fragrance encompass you

~KishanShrivastava, <http://www.lalilicious.net>

The Secret Stairs

chapter 16

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